

# Lake Country Lure

OCTOBER 2021

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ANNANDALE  
Advocate

The Maple Lake  
MESSENGER

## M&M Express

Quality service and safety is No.1

**Business Buzz**

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

By Brenda Erdahl

In 1973 Roger and Karen Millner started M&M Bus Service in Annandale. Forty-eight years later, the company has evolved into a three-part, multifunctional business that continues to be family run.

### M&M Express Sales and Service

M&M Express Sales and Service is Central Minnesota's leader in outdoor power equipment, with inventory ranging from tractors and snow blowers to handheld mowers, leaf blowers, chainsaws and other yard care needs. What started with one store in Maple Lake off Division Street West, has turned into five locations that include sites in Maple Lake, Buffalo, Big Lake, Brainerd and a new location in Saint Cloud.

"We have different product lines in different locations, so if we don't have what you're looking for here in Maple Lake, we may carry it in one of our other stores," Scott Millner said.

An authorized Mahindra, Stihl, Husqvarna Power, Toro, Echo, Cub Cadet® and Exmark dealership, M&M Express Sales and Service carries a large selection of new and pre-owned inventory at its four stores for both commercial and personal use.



A new item on the M&M floor is the Argo Amphibious vehicle.

A new item on the M&M show floor that staff are excited about is the Argo Amphibious vehicle. This recreational, utility all-terrain vehicle can go virtually anywhere, on land and on water. It can plow through the shallows on its eight wheels as easily as it can float like a boat. It is completely amphibious. In fact, some models are designed to support an outboard motor.

Argo is a company that M&M plans to work more with in the future as Argo increases their product offerings.

Battery powered, hand-held equipment continues to be popular at M&M. Major brands like Echo, Stihl and Husqvarna are producing quality chainsaws, trimmers, blowers, and lawnmowers that don't require gas or carburetors, making them easier to use and reducing mechanical issues.

Echo, Stihl and Husqvarna use lithium battery technology, which

equates to higher power that will continue to run after more charging cycles. All three companies also have a large line of equipment that use the same battery, so once you have a charging system, it can be used with any of their hand-held products.

Battery technology has come a long way, Sales Manager Kurt Jonas said. They are not just for the occasional user anymore. Professionals use this equipment for the same reasons homeowners use them - they don't have the mess or smell of gas and oil and they are quieter.

"Batteries are lasting longer than ever before and we're selling more and more battery-operated equipment every year," Jonas said.

Robotic lawnmowers are making their own statement in the yard maintenance market. M&M sales have increased, and customers have only good things to say about them. Husqvarna makes a popular robotic lawnmower they call the Automower. Like robotic vacuum cleaners, they run continually and keep lawns a consistent length. When they need charging, they return to their port, charge, then go back to work.

"Companies claim they are better for your yard because they are constantly cutting the weeds down, never allowing them to grow or create seeds which means you don't have to spray," Jonas said. Stihl also has a robotic mower they call iMOW. With the lithium battery advancements these robot mowers are becoming more affordable than ever; they cost about as much as a good zero-turn mower, Jonas said.

At M&M Express, all sales are backed by a professional service and parts department for customers' ongoing maintenance and customization needs.

M&M Express Sales and Service is conveniently located at 530 Division Street West in Maple Lake; 600 Hwy 55 East in Buffalo; 580 Humboldt Drive in Big Lake and 13380 Hwy 25 in Brainerd.

Visit [www.mmexpresssales.com](http://www.mmexpresssales.com) to find a list of all the brands the four stores carry. M&M Express Sales and Service also offers pick-up and delivery and curb-side pick-up at the store.

### M&M Express Lube & Car Care Center

M&M Express Lube and Car Care Center on Division Street West in Maple Lake is more than just a quick lube. M&M technicians offer bumper-to-bumper service on any vehicle including RVs and utility trailers. They offer free diagnostics and a shuttle service as well.

"We will pick up vehicles all over



Shop Manager Kris Porter works on a car at M&M Express Lube and Car Care Center conveniently located on Division Street West in Maple Lake next to M&M Express Sales and Service.

town at any commercial address or business for service." Millner said.

"We just do what we can to provide good service," office manager Darcy Bichler added. "With the Maple Manor so close we help a lot of elderly customers who don't have anybody else. We pick up vehicles, jump their vehicles, help however we can."

The crew at M&M also has strict ethics on charging for diagnostics.

"We do not charge for a diagnostic scan," Bichler said. "Some businesses you walk in the door, and you are being charged to scan a vehicle. We choose not to."

**Tires:** Fall is an important time to have your tires checked by professionals like the technicians at M&M, Millner said. Seasonal changes can be hard on tires and there are a lot of people driving on the roads who don't realize they need a replacement. Even if a tire looks good on the outside shoulder, the inside tread can be completely worn away, and you can't see the inside until you get under the car. Winter is a bad time to be driving on Minnesota roads with worn-out tires.

M&M offers free tire inspections to its customers and in October you can take advantage of their tire sale. Just stop by and ask about it. Currently inventory and prices are good, Millner said, but that won't last. Prices are already on the rise, so don't put it off if you need new tires, he advised.

"We see some tire/vehicle combinations reach more than 70,000 miles. You are doing really well in Minnesota if you hit 70,000 on a set, while most people are somewhere between 35,000 to 50,000 miles when needing their tires replaced," Millner said.

Once you buy a set of tires from M&M they become a partner with you in their upkeep. That partnership in-

cludes a lifetime of free rotations and help making sure your tires remain up to industry standards.

M&M offers a wide variety of tires to choose from and they are all quality tires the folks at M&M would put on their own cars.

**Batteries:** M&M not only sells batteries, technicians will evaluate the charging system and the battery condition. "We are the most qualified in town to evaluate those conditions and to sell batteries," Millner said.

**Fast Lube:** The fast lube part of the business is fast and efficient. No appointment is necessary, Bichler said. We work on a first come, first serve basis. Typically, the wait is not long, she said. If customers choose, they can sign up for an e-mail reminder when they need to have their oil changed again. The automated system keeps track of recommended maintenance schedules and lets customers know when their vehicle is due.

As with the tires, if you choose M&M for your fast lube services they become a partner in your vehicle's care, and they will do all they can to make sure your vehicle is being serviced as it should be, Millner said.

"When I first started there were three different choices of oil, now it's up to a dozen. There are so many different specs and grades, and it changes year to year. We make sure your vehicle is serviced with the oil it needs," Millner said.

In addition, M&M's 20-point inspection process assesses tires, brakes, air filters, wiper blades and lights before you get a fix-it-ticket. If technicians see something that may be a future problem, they will alert you.

**Fleet Services:** M&M Express Lube and Car Care Center also offers fleet services, which means they will man-

age the service and maintenance on a company's fleet of vehicles, including record keeping.

For information call 320-963-2060 or visit [www.mmexpresssales.com](http://www.mmexpresssales.com).

### M&M Bus Service Inc.

M&M Bus Service Inc. is where it all started in 1973. In 2000, the Millners expanded to Maple Lake, taking over duties that previously belonged to Mooney Bus Co. The No. 1 priority of M&M Bus Service is safety. The students they transport are their first concern in all aspects of the business, from hiring drivers to planning routes.

The company has received numerous awards over the years for their dedication and is a leader in the industry. The company headquarters in Annandale is also the corporate office of the Minnesota School Bus Operators Association. The MSBOA is responsible for organizing and hosting bi-annual seminars and conferences for operators where safety is always a major focus.

The MSBOA is also responsible for industry changes at the state level. Because of the MSBOA, as of 2010, all buses must be manufactured with a drop-arm crossing gate. The organization also played a role in raising fines for stop arm violations.

M&M employs 19 drivers who deliver more than 600 students to school and home again in the Maple Lake School District. Every year the drivers are honored on Bus Driver Appreciation Day in February, but most will say it's not for recognition that they do their jobs every day, it's for the kids, who to many, become like their own. For information on becoming part of the M&M Bus team call 320-274-8313.

Now that school is back in session, M&M staff remind all motorists to be extra cautious around buses picking and dropping off students.

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Todd Kirby of Hudson, Wisconsin tied a 2019 muskie record with this 57 1/4-inch monster he caught on Lake Vermilion this summer.

# Two new record fish

DNR certifies new catch-and-release state record northern pike and muskie

### Contributed Report

Anglers over the summer caught and released a new Minnesota state record northern pike and tied the record for muskellunge.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources certified the state catch-and-release record northern pike, a 46 1/ fish caught June 19 on Basswood Lake by Brecken Kobylecky, a 15-year-old from Geneva, Illinois. The previous record was a 45 1/4 inch northern pike caught on the Rainy River in 2018.

The record pike was the biggest fish Kobylecky had ever caught. He was fishing with an Ely-based fishing guide and with about 10 minutes left of their final day fishing, they were trolling for pike.

"We hooked onto a huge pike that was barely hooked, and could hardly land it due to the sheer size and weight of the fish," Kobylecky said.

Once the fish was in the boat they carefully took a few photos and measured the pike before releasing the fish back to the open water.

"The whole experience went by in a flash but it was an experience of a lifetime I'll never forget," Kobylecky said.

The DNR also certified a 57 1/4 inch muskie caught July 23 on Lake Vermilion by Todd Kirby of Hudson, Wisconsin that tied a 2019 muskie also caught on Lake Vermilion.

With two Vermilion Lake muskies now tied for the state record, this well-known water body continues to prove itself as a top muskie fishing destination. Kirby had fished the lake a handful of



Brecken Kobylecky, a 15-year old from Geneva, Illinois caught this record northern pike on Basswood Lake this summer.

times and was familiar with small pockets that muskie seem to inhabit.

"That Friday night we were up against the weather. There was a huge storm front moving through creating extremely unstable conditions. The humidity was high, and storm clouds were building. It was one of those nights that the fish seemed to be super active, our boat had multiple chases, one resulting in a 48 inch fish in the net — at that time my personal best," Kirby said.

They continued fishing into the night and around 10:30 p.m. he had a large "thud" hit his line hard when his bait was no more than 15 yards from the boat.

"I compared it to reeling in a large

moving 'log' and after a few dark splashes, she was in the net. Everything just happened so fast!" Kirby said.

Kirby and fishing partners John and Will Gavic thought the fish looked 50 inches and were amazed seeing they caught a fish even longer, and one that would earn state record status.

"My bait just so happened to be the one that she ate, but that whole night couldn't have been possible without the help of John Gavic and Will Gavic. Muskie fishing is a team effort, and when you have a good team on your side, landing a fish of that caliber creates a memory of a lifetime," Kirby said.

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# Kayaking dos & don'ts



Kayaking is a healthy and enjoyable activity that attracts new enthusiasts all the time. Part of what makes the sport so popular is the relative ease with which people can get started. Kayaking requires minimal gear (kayaks can be rented if not purchased) and no advanced skills are required. However, kayaking is not to be taken lightly, as water sports can be unpredictable. Adhering to certain dos and don'ts can make kayaking safer.

• DO choose the right boat. There are boats rated for kayak racing and those that are strictly for recreational purposes. Some boats are meant for calmer waters

- and others for waves and open seas.
- DON'T forget to check the weather forecast before heading out in the water. Storms can come up relatively quickly, and offshore winds can make it challenging to paddle back to shore.
  - DO let someone know where you're going and how long you plan to be out on the water.
  - DON'T touch or get too close to wildlife, as animals can be unpredictable and even dangerous.
  - DO dress for the water temperature and not the weather outside. This helps

ensure your health if you intentionally or accidentally enter the water.

- DON'T skip wearing a life jacket/buoyancy aid.
- DO expect to get wet, even if you do not fall in. Splash up will occur from paddles and some water will get in the boat regardless.
- DON'T forget to bring along some snacks and water.
- DO bring a fellow kayaker along. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned professional, bringing a friend along ensures someone can go for help if you're involved in an accident or suffer an injury.

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LAKE OF THE MONTH

# Lake Pulaski

Largemouth bass and Black crappie provide anglers excellent fishing

By Joe Stewig  
Area Fisheries Manager

Lake Pulaski is a 700-acre lake located within the city limits of Buffalo in Wright County. The lake has one city owned public access which can be very busy on the weekends. As with many lakes in the area, Lake Pulaski offers fishing opportunities for a variety of species; however, the lake is primarily known for its bass, crappie and walleye populations.

The lake has a long history of stocking dating back to 1908 with some rather unusual species being tried over the years such as Brown Trout, Steelhead, Lake Trout and Chinook Salmon!!! When none of these species panned out the goal shifted to Walleye management. Walleye were first stocked into the lake in 1946 and were stocked every one to two years. Since 1973, Walleye have been stocked every other year. While the lake is stocked regularly by the DNR, there appears to be some natural reproduction taking place in the lake as well as about 10 – 20 percent of the Walleye collected during recent surveys have been related (verified through ageing) back to non-stocked years. The most recent lake survey conducted in 2020 found relatively high numbers of Walleye (8.0/gill net) although similar to the past three surveys (2015, 2010, 2004). Walleye caught ranged in length from 11 to 26 inches and averaged 18 inches and just over two pounds. Walleye growth is above average for the area only taking two years to reach 15 inches. Even though Walleye appear to be abundant, anglers complain that they are hard to catch. This is probably a combination of the lake being very clear and that it receives a lot of recreational traffic making it difficult to fish.

Lake Pulaski is probably best known as a Largemouth Bass lake and there are plenty to be had. Unfortunately, we were unable to sample bass in 2020 due to COVID19 sampling protocols; however bass numbers between 2004 and 2015 were above average. In 2015, bass collected ranged in length from seven to 18 inches with an average length and weight of 13 ½ inches and 1.5 pounds. Eighty-four percent of the bass sampled were longer than 12 inches and 22 percent were longer than 15 inches. While we didn't sample any bass over 20 inches in 2015 there are some out there roaming the lake so don't be surprised to catch one over 20 inches.

Black Crappie are another highly

sought after species in the lake and at times can provide excellent fishing. Black Crappie abundance appears to be above average; however summer assessments tend to not give a true representation of the actual crappie population and so a targeted spring assessment would better represent the size structure of the crappie population. That said, crappies sampled in 2020 ranged in length from 5.5 – 13.1 inches with an average length of 7.7 inches. Twenty-four percent of the crappies sampled were longer than eight inches and 10 percent

were longer than 10 inches. Although the size structure doesn't appear all that great right now, there is a pretty good slug of crappies between 6 ½ and 7 ½ inches coming up which should make for some good fishing in 2 – 3 years.

Bluegill abundance is average for the area; however the average size tends to be small. Bluegill sampled in 2020 ranged in length from three to 8 ½ inches with an average length of 4 ½ inches. Similar to crappies, the Bluegill population is better represented through spring targeted sampling. In 2015, a targeted Bluegill assessment was conducted and sampled 622 Bluegill ranging from three to 7.6 inches. Only 26 percent of the Bluegill caught during that survey were six inches or longer with no bluegill over eight inches being caught. Bluegill

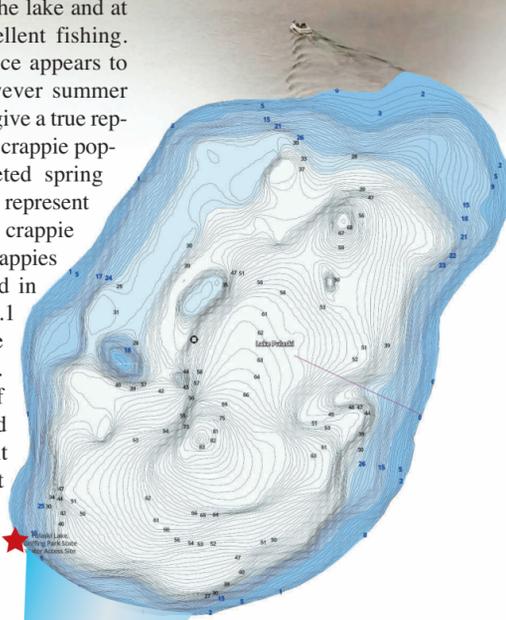
growth is slow, taking six years to reach seven inches. Even though the average size is small anglers can still scratch out a good meal of sunfish if they are willing to sort.

Northern Pike abundance remains high, and the average size is relatively small at 19 inches and 1 ½ pounds. Anglers will encounter numerous pike under 22 inches as only 14 percent of the catch were longer than 22 inches; however, there is a chance to catch a few pike over 30 inches as pike up to 35 inches have been caught in previous surveys. Northern Pike growth is average for the area, taking six years to reach 25 inches. With the relatively high abundance of small Northern Pike, anglers are encouraged to take advantage of the liberal statewide regulation on pike. New statewide regulations implemented in 2018 allow anglers to harvest up to 10 Northern Pike of which only 2 can be over 26 inches. All pike between 22 and 26 inches (inclusive) must however be immediately released.

There are no special fishing regulations on the lake; however, the lake is infested with Eurasian milfoil so care should be taken not to spread this invasive species. Practicing selective harvest will continue to ensure healthy fish populations for future enjoyment. If anglers choose to harvest a meal of fish, it is suggested they harvest smaller Northern Pike (<22 inches) due to their high abundance.



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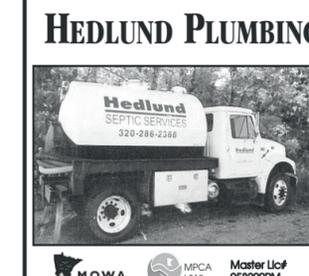
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## October Fishing Forecast

### Walleye bite has been picking up on local lakes

For many sportsmen and women, the focus has changed from fishing to hunting and local sports shops have seen the decline lately on area lakes. The warm weather has kept the fish deep and low water levels have made it hard for anglers to land their boats. Overall, the bite's been slow, but there is still some action to be found.

Walleye have been biting on Clearwater, Koronis, Big Swan and Cokato according to Kurt Segner owner of Little Jim's Sport Shop in Annandale. Bass and northern have been biting on most of the area

lakes along the weed lines, which is usually in about 15 feet of water. Anglers have

been using plastics for bass and crankbaits and sucker minnows for the northerns.

A few anglers have had luck catching bass in the shallows using top-water baits. Sylvia and Clearwater are producing some sunfish along the weed lines. Maple Lake and Mary have been producing crappie, sunnies and bass according to Shawn at Lake Region Coop in Buffalo and live baits are working better than plastics.

As the rain and cooler weather move in, fishing is expected to improve. Fish will move into shallower water and the fall bite will begin.

### Baitshop Chatter

**Maple Lake:** Crappies, sunnies and bass are biting in deep water on live bait including crappie minnows, flatheads, sucker minnows and night crawlers.

**Lake Mary:** Anglers have had some luck catching crappies, sunnies and bass on live bait.

**Clearwater Lake:** Walleyes are biting in 15 to 24 feet of water on night crawlers, flatheads, creek chugs and sucker minnows in the early morning and late evening. Anglers have been having some luck catching sunfish on the weed lines in about 15 feet of water.

**Lake Sylvia:** Sunfish have been biting long the weed line in 15 feet of water.

**Koronis, Big Swan, Cokato lakes:** Walleye have been biting in 15 to 24 feet of water on night crawlers, fatheads, creek chubs and sucker minnows early in the morning and later in the evening.

**National Fire Prevention Week**  
October 3-9

**National School Bus Safety Week**  
October 18-22

# Storing Root Vegetables

By Katie Drewitz and Adam Austing  
University of Minnesota Extension

Even with the hot dry summer conditions that we saw, many gardeners still have root vegetables to store. With canning supplies still in short supply this year, it is important to understand proper storing options. The length of time and efforts to store these vegetables varies and it is important to keep in mind that only healthy, disease free produce should be stored.

Being able to find the perfect conditions for optimal storage is difficult. Basements, root cellars, refrigerators, garages, and sheds are all locations people attempt to store produce. To ensure the longest shelf-life of our produce, here is some helpful information.

The first storage category is cold, moist storage. Cold moist storage is defined as 32-40°F, 90-95% relative humidity. Beets will store up to five months, be sure to store without tops. Carrots will store up to eight months and should be stored without tops. Parsnips will store up to four months, do not wax, and they have best sweetness after two-week storage at 32°F. Potato will store up to six months, and should be cured at 50-60°F for 14 days before storage. Rutabaga will store up to four months, do not wax, and will give off odors. Turnips will

store up to four months, can be waxed, and will give off odors. Cole Crops should also be stored in cold, moist storage. Broccoli will store up to two weeks. Cabbage will store up to five months, but it is not recommended to store in basement because smell will spread throughout house. Cauliflower will store up to three weeks. Kohlrabi will store up to two months and should be stored without tops.

The next storage category is cool, dry storage which is defined as 50-60°F and 60% relative humidity. Pumpkins will store up to two months and are very sensitive to temperatures below 45°F. Winter squash will store for two to six months depending on variety. Field curing is the best option.

Finally, cold, dry storage which is 32-40°F and 65% relative humidity. Onions cure at room temperature for two to four weeks before storage. Onions should not be stored near apples or potatoes as the apples and potatoes will absorb the onion flavor.

In general store root crops in layers of moist sand, peat or sphagnum moss or in a plastic perforated bag. You can make your own by using a paper punch or a sharp object like a pen or knife and punching or slicing a hole every six inches. This helps



Keep your root vegetables as long as possible with these helpful tips from the U of M Extension team. Carrots in Cold moist storage, Winter squash in cool, dry storage and onions in cold, dry storage

provide essential air movement to prevent condensation and helps prevent shriveling and prolongs shelf-life. Of course, it is then important to ensure there is good ventilation and the produce is stored in an area where it will not sustain rodent damage.

To obtain ideal temperatures, you may want to consider using straw,

hay, or wood shavings to insulate the bags of produce in areas where the temperatures would dip too low and cause loss. In general, expect the shelf-life to be shortened by 25% for every 10°F increase in temperature.

Finally, be sure to check on your produce to ensure they haven't started to mold or go bad. Discard

any that show signs before it impacts others. For a more complete list on storing vegetables, visit [www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu) and search "storing vegetables". You can also reach out to your Local Extension Educator. Residents in Wright County can call 763-682-7381 or email [aausting@umn.edu](mailto:aausting@umn.edu) for additional information.

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## Tips to carve the perfect jack-o'-lantern

Jack-o'-lanterns are one of many indelible symbols of Halloween. It's hard to pinpoint the precise origins of jack-o'-lanterns, but many historians trace the tradition to 19th century Ireland. In fact, this instantly recognizable staple of Halloween decor actually gets its name from an Irish folktale character named "Stingy Jack."

Jack-o'-lanterns are ubiquitous in October, but a refresher course on carving one can help those who haven't dusted off their carving skills since last fall.

- Don't carve too early. Though it can be tempting and fun to carve a jack-o'-lantern once the calendar turns to October, it's unlikely the finished product will make it all the way to October 31. Horticulturists indicate that jack-o'-lanterns have a shelf life of roughly five to 10 days, though an especially cold October could shorten that life expectancy even further. If you want your jack-o'-lantern to greet trick-or-treaters on Halloween, wait to carve it until a few days before the big day.

- Use a dry-erase marker to outline the design. It's easy to make mistakes when carving a jack-o'-lantern, especially if this is your first time using a carving knife since last year. Use a dry-erase marker to trace the design onto the pumpkin before you make a cut.

- Avoid severing the stem. When many people envision jack-o'-lanterns, the image in their minds is one in which the top of the pumpkin is removed so candles or lights can be effortlessly placed inside. However, the custom pumpkin carving experts at New York-based Maniac Pumpkin Carvers note that removing the top cuts off the vine, which supplies the pumpkin with nutrients and moisture, even after it's been cut. A whole in the back of the pumpkin can pro-



Jack-o'-lanterns are ubiquitous in October, but a refresher course on carving one can help those who haven't dusted off their carving skills since last fall.

vide easy access when placing candles or lights inside, and cutting here won't cut off the nutrient and moisture supply a pumpkin needs to avoid drying out.

- Scoop everything out. The interior of a pumpkin will be loaded with seeds, which can be removed and later roasted to make a savory snack. In addition to removing the seeds, be sure to get all of the pulp out. Pulp left in the pumpkin will soon get moldy and that can shorten the lifespan of the jack-o'-lantern. In addition, when removing the interior, try scraping the front inner wall of the

pumpkin thin, which may make it easier to carve.

- Avoid candles when lighting the interior of the jack-o'-lantern. Candles might seem like the most authentic and even spooky way to light the interior of the pumpkin, but the heat produced by a burning candle can shorten the life expectancy of the jack-o'-lantern. An LED light won't give off much heat and will provide ample illumination.

A few simple tips can help Halloween celebrants ensure their jack-o'-lanterns make it all the way to the big day at the end of October.

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# TEACHER of the MONTH

Admin Edition



**SARAH MJELDE**

By Tom Westman  
Staff Writer

Recently Annandale area residents were asked to vote for the Annandale School District's Administrative Assistant for the month of September. The votes have been counted and Sarah Mjelde, Administrative Assistant at Annandale Middle School, is this month's honoree.

**A go-getter**

"To say that Sarah is a go-getter is an understatement," said Jeff Erickson, Annandale Middle School Principal. "Sarah has a tremendous work ethic and is one of the best problem-solvers that I've worked with, she rolls up her sleeves and digs in."

"Sarah is also extremely personable and service-based in her role at AMS. She welcomes students and families with a smile and works hard to meet their needs. Sarah's 'mom instincts' are on display daily and our students feel very comfortable coming to her for help. "It is enjoyable to watch her take care of our kids every day."

**Other comments**

Many people left comments about Sarah when the cast a vote for her. Some comments included:

- She's always willing to help
- She always has a smile!
- Sarah is always smiling and so pleasant
- She's on top of every aspect of the kids each day in addition to her other duties.
- Sarah is a big asset to Annandale Middle School.
- She always has a smile and friendly.



**About Sarah Mjelde**

Mjelde grew up in the small town of Cook on Lake Vermilion in northern Minnesota. She went to school Pre-K - 12 all grades in one building and graduated from North Woods Secondary in 2000. In high school she participated in volleyball, basketball and track.

**U-W-Stout**

Mjelde graduated with a bachelor's degree in retail merchandising and management with a concentration in interior design. She minored in business and art.

**AMS in 2017**

Mjelde was hired in the Annandale School District August of 2017 as the middle school administrative assistant.

"I absolutely love what I do every day," Mjelde said. "It is always different; you never know what each day will bring."

"Kids make me smile and my coworkers are hands down the best."

**Family**

Sarah and her husband Ross have been married for 16 years. Sarah and Ross have two children Mackenzie and Mason and the family makes their home in Buffalo, along with a cat named Lola.

"When we aren't running kids around to all their activities, we enjoy spending time on Lake Vermilion, fishing, boating, yard games, hunting-shack time, ATV riding, campfires, ice skating and snowmobiling," Mjelde said.



**LORI MEYER**

By Brenda Erdahl  
Staff Writer

Kind and hardworking, dedicated, faithful, creative, and fun are just a few reasons Lori Meyer was voted Administrative Assistant of the Month-Administrative Assistant edition online competition.

Meyer is an Administrative Assistant at St. Timothy School in Maple Lake where she assists the principal, helps children who come to the office, assists parents with any questions they may have as well as taking care of weekly newsletters, flyers and school communications and events.

The public cast their votes via the Maple Lake Messenger website in September in favor of Meyer who voters called "caring, sweet, patient, selfless, accountable, and always goes out of her way to make you feel important. She's amazing!"

This is Meyer's third year at St. Timothy. She has previous experience at a small Catholic school in Rogers working as an administrative assistant, but that was years ago. She became involved at St. Timothy as a parent volunteer. She currently has five children enrolled at St. Timothy and one who graduated and moved on. As a parent volunteer, she helped with fundraisers and served on the Home and School Board for four years as the secretary.

Meyer is a graduate of Buffalo High School. She attended



Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia and holds an Associates of Arts degree in Liberal Arts. She works part time at the school and on her days off, she works at home in the online marketing and graphic design field.

"I love working in a Catholic School environment, being around children, families and the wonderful staff. I also enjoy working at the same school where my children attend so I can see them throughout the day," she said. "The prior secretary was at St. Timothy's for 20 years, so when I started the posi-

tion there were big shoes to fill and my kids would ask me if I was the new Sharon. Since I only worked part-time I liked to say I was only half a Sharon!"

Meyer has been married to her husband Ryan for 16 years. They have eight children, four boys and four girls ranging in age from 1 to 15. Before coming to St. Timothy she worked from home part time and was home with the children.

"I love St. Tim's! The faith life is strong in the school and in the community. There are so many wonderful people here, it is like a big family," she said.

**GO ONLINE TO VOTE FOR THE NOVEMBER TEACHER OF THE MONTH!**

The poll will open shortly for the October poll featuring Paras. Head online to put in your vote before October 17!

**VOTE** **by OCT. 17**

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# LAKE Country Calendar

# October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					• Annandale's Homecoming Game	• Fall wild turkey season starts
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	<b>National Fire Prevention Week</b> • Maple Lake Homecoming Week • Annandale City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.	• Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • South Haven City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Hall	• Maple Lake Chamber Meeting, 12 p.m. • October New Moon	• ML Legion Riders Meet, 7 p.m.	• Maple Lake Football - Home 7 p.m.	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
• Pioneer Park's Fall Pancake Breakfast, time TBD	• Safe Communities of Wright County, 6:30 p.m. • ML School Board Meeting 7 p.m. • ML PTA Meeting, 5 p.m. • <b>Columbus Day</b>	• Late Start Maple Lake Schools • Potluck Supper, Pioneer Park, 6:30 p.m. • Chatham Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • ML American Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m. • Maple Lake City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.	• Annandale Chamber Meeting, 11:30 a.m., location TBD • Hasty-Silver Creek Sportsmen's Club Meeting, 8 p.m.	• Lions Club Meeting, 7 p.m. at The V By HH • Sons of the American Legion Meet, 8 p.m.		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
 Vote for Teacher of the Month DEADLINE SEE PAGE 5	<b>National School Bus Safety Week</b> • ML Elementary Conferences 4-7 p.m.	• Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • Albion Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • Maple Lake Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • ML Elementary Conferences 4-7 p.m. • MLHS Evening Conferences 4-7 p.m.	• Elementary All Day Conferences ○ October Full Hunter's Moon	• Fall Break - NO SCHOOL • MN Youth Statewide Deer Hunt • Early Antlerless Portions of SE MN • ML Legion Auxiliary Meeting, 7 p.m. • Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	• Fall Break - NO SCHOOL • MN Youth Statewide Deer Hunt • Early Antlerless Portions of SE MN	• MN Youth Statewide Deer Hunt • Early Antlerless Portions of SE MN
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30
• MN Youth Statewide Deer • Early Antlerless Portions of SE MN		• Wright County Snowmobile Asso. Meet 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Club	<b>On this date in 1904</b> New York City's subway began operating. The first underground and underwater rail system in the world.	• Knights of Columbus Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Church of St. Timothy	• Business Trick-or-Treat, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Annandale and Maple Lake • Camp Ripley Archery Deer Hunt	 November Calendar Published • Pioneer Park's Halloween Spooktacular, time TBD • Camp Ripley Archery Deer Hunt

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